

# Love Came Down ... To Be With Us

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## Scripture

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means 'God is with us.'"

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. -- Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

## Discussion Questions

1. What's the most surprising thing you learned about the birth of Jesus? What does the birth of Jesus tell us about the character of God?
2. What would have been the biggest challenge for Joseph to overcome? When has God challenged you to change your plans?
3. Where do you need God to be "with you" at this moment in your life? Where does God need you to be "with him" in the world?
4. Where do you need to get personally involved in something that is important to God? What obstacles will you need to overcome?

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### Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit [middletownchristian.org](http://middletownchristian.org) or contact Tracy Spann, [tspann@middletownchristian.org](mailto:tspann@middletownchristian.org) to learn more.

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